

**Preliminary Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/709,138**

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 9-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 12 is newly-added.

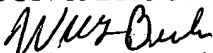
Newly-added claim 12 is supported in paragraph [0038] of the specification.

The claims are in condition for further examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:   Petition for Extension of Time  
                  Request for Continued Examination Transmittal  
                  Check in the amount of \$1,240.00

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